



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States
7450 Boston Boulevard, Springfield, Virginia 22153
www.es.blm.gov**



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bill Davenport (703) 440-1720

..WONDERING WHERE AND HOW TO ADOPT A WILD HORSE OR BURRO? ..

On March 18 and 19, 2006, the Bureau of Land Management-Eastern States (BLM-ES) will offer more than 80 young horses and a few burros for adoption at the Kansas Missouri Livestock Market in Passaic, Missouri. "There will be some exceptional horses from the Western ranges there, and you can adopt one for a minimal adoption fee starting at \$125," said BLM-ES State Director Mike Nedd.

The animals will arrive on Friday, March 17, 2006, with viewing hours Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The scheduled hours for the adoption are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 18, 2006, and 8:00 a.m. to noon, Sunday, March 19, 2006.

Once gentled, wild horses are often used for trail riding, dressage, hunter/jumper, and western events by people who have adopted them. Mustangs are noted for their endurance, sure-footedness and intelligence.

All animals available for adoption have been examined by a veterinarian, vaccinated, de-wormed, and blood-tested. Since the Adopt-A-Wild Horse & Burro Program began in 1973, more than 207,000 animals have been adopted.

Prospective adopters must have sturdy corrals, 20' x 20', at least 6 feet high for an adult horse and at least 5 feet high for burros and horses younger than 18 months, shelter, transportation, and the means of caring for the animals. Adopters must provide their own stock-type, step up trailer (ramps or split two-horse type trailers are not allowed). BLM-ES staff will sort, halter and load animals onto the adopters' trailers.

Adoptions will be by competitive bid, with an adoption fee of \$125 per animal used as the starting adoption fee bid.

Applications to adopt will be reviewed Friday afternoon and Saturday. Adopters are encouraged to **pre-qualify by calling 1-800-293-1781** before the adoption for information. Animals not adopted Saturday morning will be offered for the \$125 adoption fee on a first-come basis that afternoon and Sunday.

Directions: Located 55 miles south of Kansas City, MO off Hwy 71 at the Butler Business Rte 71/Passaic exit.

For applications or other information contact the Bureau of Land Management at 1-800-293-1781 or 1-866-4MUSTANGS, or visit the BLM web site at www.es.blm.gov/programs/whb.

-BLM-